

The Messenger
December 2024 Newsletter for
Mt Salem-Wyaconda Baptist Association

A Word from Interim Director of Missions / Moderator Barry

2024 is coming to an end. It's been a year of turmoil, troubles, joy, sadness, and sorrow. We've had to contend with the elections, and all that Reddit that goes with it. Decisions were made by the voters. Some we agree with, and some we disagree with. But ultimately, it's our place to be praying for those in leadership and asking God to move mightily among our people and this country.

We know that December brings around a lot of times of celebration, especially as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Many of our churches will be preparing their Christmas cantatas or musicals with youth, children and adults all included. And there will be those that will simply come together for a time of singing and worship. Let this be the focus of our heart – that we would worship our Savior Jesus Christ always, seeking to have Him in our hearts always!

Please remember those who have lost a loved one as we approach this season of celebration. Take time to visit them, invite them and fellowship with them. Let them know that you love them as much as the Lord loves them!

Please take note! We still have open positions in our Association! Pastor, please inform your congregation of all these opening! We would love to have them filled before we end this year! They are: Nominating Committee has three open positions, Staff Evaluation Committee as two open positions, Annual Meeting Planning Committee has one open position. Please contact me if you would be willing to serve in any of these positions! Thank you.

We had a wonderful night with our association's Skate event. We had approximately 35 people attend with about 20 of those skating. Some of us were contemplating it, and some of us were afraid to, but we were there and enjoyed the time together. Thank you so much for those that came. And thank you to those that worked on the preparations for this event. I think it was wonderful. I enjoyed it immensely.

God bless.

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Summer Bible Camp 2025 at Camp Inlow

by Barry Pfister, Camp Team Leader

The Camp Planning Meeting will be on December 3 as we look forward to Camp 2025!

A Music Note

by Mike Kitch, Music Team Leader

Greetings to everyone! It was another Spirit-filled evening at Lewistown Church for November Hymn Sing. Several people commented on the memorable hymns selected. It's interesting how many of us hold certain songs and their lyrics close to our hearts, and that those same lyrics can give us joy, strength or peace at different times. What wonderful gifts from God!

REMINDER! On Tuesday, December 10 the Hymn Sing at La Grange STARTS AT 6:30 PM. We will have church choirs sharing songs and probably some "impromptu" choirs like all men and all women. An all children's choir would be awesome too along with regular special music. Come join the fun, food, and fellowship as we end our year with worship through music. Glory be to God!

Missions Together

Kimbre Thrower and Ashley Ulrich, Co-Leaders

In Missions Together last month, we explored Brazil as we learned about missionaries that live in a house boat in order to plant churches along the Amazon! Come join us at 4:30 pm on December 1 as we discover missions in Norway. There will be a carry-in dinner at 5:30 pm.

Hands In Service Sewing Group (because we are HIS)

Violet Brownell, Sewing Leader

We will not be meeting to sew in December. Maybe you will have time to work some at home.

We will plan to meet in January – depending on the weather!

ASSOCIATIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS
FOR DECEMBER 2024

Check back to the mwsba.org website for latest updated information throughout the month

All pastors and association leadership as well as their spouse are invited to a Christmas Dinner at Saints Avenue Café in Canton on Friday, December 6 at 6:30 pm. Gifts are not required.

Hope you can come!

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>
Dec. 1-8		Week of Prayer for International Missions	Week of Prayer for International Missions. Go to www.imb.org/generosity/lottie-moon-christmas-offering for more information.
Dec 1 Sun	4:30 PM	Missions Together	Age-level missions classes for all ages, followed by Norway themed carry-in. Meet at FBC Ewing. Contacts: Kimbre Thrower 573-288-4759 and Ashley Ulrich 573-288-4734.
Dec. 2 Mon	9:00 AM	WMU trip to Salvation Army Store	WMU mission trip workday at the Quincy Salvation Army Store from 9 am to 12n. For last minute information, contact: Mary Ann Lillard 573-853-4507 if planning to attend.
Dec. 3 Tue	7:00 PM	Camp Meeting	Camp Planning Meeting at FBC Ewing. Contact: Barry Pfister 660-734-2080.
Dec. 6 Fri	6:30 PM	Association Christmas Dinner	All association leadership invited to a Christmas Dinner at Saints Avenue Cafe in Canton. Gifts are not required. Meal is dutch-treat. Contact: Barry Pfister 660-734-2080.
Dec. 7 Sat	9:00 AM	Pastors and Wives Prayer Meeting and Breakfast	Pastors and wives monthly Prayer Meeting <u>canceled</u> due to Christmas dinner.
Dec. 9 Mon	6:00 PM	The Lesters in Concert in Wayland	The Lesters will be in concert at Southern Baptist Fellowship Church in Wayland. All are welcome to attend. A love offering will be taken. For more information contact Pastor Dan Steinbeck 217-242-8640.
Dec. 10 Tue	6:30 PM	Hymn Sing - Christmas Special	Meet at FBC La Grange at 6:30 pm. Christmas music welcome. All are welcome to attend - bring friends with you! Contact: Mike Kitch 600-956-5591.
Dec 24- Jan 1		Holiday closure	Association office closed for Christmas through New Year holidays December 24 to January 1.